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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [ASEC](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORIST CELL TRIAL BEGINS

REF: A. MANAMA 932

- [1](#)B. MANAMA 913
- [1](#)C. MANAMA 876
- [1](#)D. MANAMA 831
- [1](#)E. MANAMA 820
- [1](#)F. MANAMA 794
- [1](#)G. MANAMA 790

[1](#)1. (U) The trial of five suspects charged under Bahrain's 2006 counter-terrorism law (reftels) began October 23 in Manama's High Criminal Court. The three present entered pleas of "not guilty"; two others remain at large and are being tried in absentia. The court denied a defense request for bail and adjourned until November 20.

[1](#)2. (U) The five face charges of membership in a terrorist organization, undergoing terrorist training, facilitating the travel of others abroad to receive terrorist training, and financing terrorism. For the first time, press accounts connected the accused to Al-Qaeda and to carrying out acts of terrorism against a foreign power. Press reporting did not provide names of the accused, only their ages and nationalities.

[1](#)3. (U) The defendants appeared in an open session of the court, however public access was limited to their families and supporters. Media were not permitted into the courtroom during the proceedings.

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